



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILLEGAL ALIEN SENTENCED ON IMMIGRATION CHARGES

Columbia, South Carolina---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Pedro Mendoza, age 32, of Mexico, was sentenced this week in federal court in Florence, South Carolina, for illegal reentry after deportation following conviction of an aggravated felony, a violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a)(2) and (b)(2). United States District Judge R. Bryan Harwell of Florence sentenced MENDOZA to 27 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, and ordered deportation once sentence is complete.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that MENDOZA was convicted for possession with intent to distribute cocaine in Horry County on May 17, 2004, then transferred to federal custody and convicted of possession a false identification document with intent to defraud the United States. After serving his sentences, Mendoza was deported to Mexico. On July 14, 2010, Mendoza was arrested by the Horry County

Police Department and subsequently charged with five counts of trafficking cocaine and one count of trafficking marijuana. ICE was contacted and it was determined that Mendoza had not received permission to reenter the United States.

The case was investigated by agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents. Assistant United States Attorney William E. Day, II of the Florence office handled the case.

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